

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IGA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /175 W
----- 025682

R 221003 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4217

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9711

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: EMBASSY INTERVENTION RE RTG EMBARGO ON RICE EXPORTS

REF: VIENTIANE 4498

1. EMBASSY HAS MADE INQUIRIES AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS MINISTRY OF COMMERCE JUNE 15, 18, 20 AND 2, AND IN MFA ON JUNE 21 STRESSING ESSENTIAL NEED TO MEET EARLIER COMMITMENTS TO SELL RICE TO LAOS. MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMED YESTERDAY THAT RECOMMENDATION ON EXPORT SEED RICE HAD BEEN SENT TO PM'S OFFICE. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED.

2. RTG OFFICIALS CONTACTED EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR LAOS RICE NEEDS AND ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT EXPORT BAN WILL BE LIFTED TO SOME EXTENT AT LEAST FOR GLUTINOUS RICE. HOWEVER, STRESSED THAT EXPORT BAN HAS ENTAILED CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS ARISING OUT OF PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO OBTAIN EXCEPTIONS ONLY MINISTER OF COMMERCE CAN GRANT.

3. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE PRESS FOR EARLY AND FAVORABLE
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RTG ACTION AND WILL KEEP VIENTIANE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
ECON/ COML COUNSELOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH UNDER-
SECRETARY MINCOMERCE JUNE 25, WHICH IS EARLIEST TIME
HE IS AVAILABLE.
MASTERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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